

**Claims:**

1-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~making a configuration change~~inserting a patch cord into first and second data ports in a local area network (LAN) comprising a computer system that controls the LAN, a plurality of data ports, a plurality of local system ports in communication with the computer system, and a visual indicator adjacent to each data port ~~in at least a subset of the plurality of data ports~~, the method comprising:

~~providing instructions to insert a patch cord into or remove a patch cord from a first data port of the subset of the plurality of data ports;~~

the computer system determining whether instructions to insert the patch cord into the first data port have been correctly completed by analyzing a temporary connection formed by insertion of one end of the patch cord into one of the data ports and insertion of another end of the patch cord into one of the system ports; and

of the visual indicators adjacent to the data ports, altering a state of only the visual indicator adjacent to the first data port after the computer system determines that the instructions to insert the patch cord into or remove the patch cord from the first data port have been correctly completed to indicate that the instructions have been correctly completed, the state being altered before subsequent instructions to insert the other end of the patch cord into or remove the patch cord from a the second data port have been completed, the patch cord having been removed from the one of the system ports, thereby terminating the temporary connection, before the subsequent instructions have been completed.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising withholding the subsequent instructions until the instructions have been correctly completed.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the state is altered only after the instructions have been correctly completed.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

providing the subsequent instructions after the instructions have been correctly completed, the second data port belonging to the subset of the plurality of data ports; and

of the visual indicators adjacent to the data ports, altering a state of only the visual indicator adjacent to the second data port after the subsequent instructions have been correctly completed to indicate that the subsequent instructions have been correctly completed.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising activating the visual indicator associated the second data port only after the instructions have been correctly completed.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising activating the visual indicators adjacent to the first and second data ports prior to the patch cord being inserted into ~~or removed from~~ the first data port.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising, of the visual indicators adjacent to the first and second data ports, activating only the visual indicator adjacent to the first data port prior to the patch cord being inserted into ~~or removed from~~ the first data port.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising altering the state differently depending on whether the instructions have been correctly or incorrectly completed.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising altering a state of a visual indicator on the patch cord at least one of in same manner or at the same time as a visual indicator not on the patch cord.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising providing a plurality of visual indicator states that are different from each other and that include a first visual indicator state before insertion into the first data port, a second visual indicator state before

removal from the first data port, a third visual indicator state after correct insertion into the first data port, and a fourth visual indicator state after incorrect removal from the first data port.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising targeting only data ports having activated visual indicators, the targeting comprising:

scanning the data ports having activated visual indicators;  
analyzing the data ports having activated visual indicators to determine whether the instructions or the subsequent instructions have been correctly or incorrectly completed; and  
limiting at least one of the scanning and analyzing to only the data ports having activated visual indicators.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising initiating the targeting from scanning and analysis of at least all data ports using a manually-activated input.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising automatically terminating the targeting and returning to scanning and analysis of at least all data ports.

43-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, further comprising:  
providing directions to a general location of the first data port; and  
altering the state of the visual indicator adjacent to the first data port only after an end of the patch cord is inserted into a local system port at the general location ~~or an IM port of a portable information module (IM), the local system port having a different functionality than any of the data ports.~~

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the end of the patch cord inserted into the local system port ~~or IM port~~ at the general location and an end of the patch cord inserted into the first data port are different.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising providing additional directions to the first data port only after the end of the patch cord is inserted into the local system port ~~or the IM port~~ at the general location.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising initiating determination of whether the instructions have been correctly completed using a manually-activated input.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising limiting directions to the first data port to a general location until a manually-activated input is activated.

51. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring a patch cord between a first data port and a second data port in a local area network (LAN) comprising a computer system controlling the LAN to the second data port and a third data port in the LAN, the method comprising:

at least one of:

the computer system automatically determining whether the patch cord is an appropriate length for establishing a connection between the second and third data ports before the patch cord is removed from the first data port; or

providing a manually-activated input to indicate to the computer system that the patch cord is not the appropriate length for establishing the connection between the second and third data ports; and

the computer system providing different instructions for a revisor depending on whether the patch cord is or is not the appropriate length after the computer system has automatically determined whether the patch cord is the appropriate length or the manually-activated input has been actuated to communicate to the computer system whether the patch cord is the appropriate length.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the manually-activated input is disposed on a portable device.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, further comprising the computer system providing the different instructions independent of whether the manually-activated input acknowledgment is activated before the patch cord is removed from the first data port or after the patch cord is removed from the first data port and before the patch cord is inserted into the third data port.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, further comprising the computer system indicating an optimal patch cord length for the revisor if the patch cord is not the appropriate length.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, further comprising the computer system providing fewer instructions for the revisor if the patch cord is the appropriate length than if the patch cord is not the appropriate length.

56. (Currently Amended) A method of inserting a patch cord into first and second data ports ~~making a configuration change in~~ a system comprising a visual indicator and a local area network (LAN) containing a computer system that controls the LAN, a plurality of data ports, a plurality of local system ports in communication with the computer system, the visual indicator separable from the data ports, the method comprising:

~~providing instructions to insert a patch cord into or remove a patch cord from a first data port of the plurality of data ports;~~

the computer system determining whether instructions to insert the patch cord into the first data port have been correctly completed by analyzing a temporary connection formed by insertion of one end of the patch cord into one of the data ports and insertion of another end of the patch cord into one of the system ports;

altering a state of ~~only~~ the separable visual indicator ~~only after in response to the computer determining that the instructions to insert the patch cord into or remove the patch cord from the first data port have been correctly completed~~ to indicate that the instructions have been correctly completed, the state being altered before subsequent instructions to insert the other end ~~alter a~~

~~connection of the patch cord with a~~ into the second data port have been completed, the patch cord having been removed from the one of the system ports, thereby terminating the temporary connection, before the subsequent instructions have been completed; and

withholding the subsequent instructions until the instructions have been correctly completed.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56, further comprising:  
providing directions to a general location of at least one of the first or second data port;

and

providing further directions to the at least one of the first or second data port ~~only after in~~ response to an end of the patch cord is being inserted into a local system port at the general location or an IM port of a portable information module (IM), the local system port having a different functionality than any of the data ports.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the patch cord comprises the separable visual indicator.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein a portable device comprises the separable visual indicator, the portable device further comprising a display and a manually-activated input.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) A revision system comprising:  
a local area network (LAN) containing a rack having a plurality of data ports and a system port having a different functionality than the data ports;  
a computer processor connected with the data ports through a scanner and connected with the system ports;  
at least one of:

the computer processor being configured to automatically determine whether a patch cord connecting first and second data ports is an appropriate length for connecting the second data port and a third data port before the patch cord is removed from the first data port; or

a manually-activated input configured to indicate that the patch cord is not the appropriate length for connecting the second and third data ports; and

a display configured to display different instructions depending on whether the patch cord is or is not the appropriate length.

62. (Previously Presented) The revision system of claim 61, further comprising at least one of a portable information module or a probe, the manually-activated input disposed on the at least one of the portable information module or the probe.

63-67. (Cancelled)